The claimed invention is directed to a flexible laminate. The laminate comprises a flexible carrier first layer; a flexible light-active second layer situated on an outer surface of the laminate; and a flexible permanent magnetic layer for releasable magnetic attachment of the laminate to a ferromagnetic surface; wherein the flexible permanent magnetic layer is the same as the first layer or is a third flexible layer attached to the carrier layer. The light-active second layer acts without external energizing to change the properties of incident light such that the light reflected by this layer has signaling properties. For example, the light-active second layer changes the color of the incident light.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 2,599,047 (Clark).

Clark discloses a magnetic device, which can be temporarily adhered to an automobile structure. The magnetic device is a solid device, which is removable with a special removal tool. Initials, insignia, symbols, and the like may be printed, embossed, engraved, or affixed to the top of the device.

Clark does not teach a *flexible* laminate having a light-active second layer, which acts *without external energizing* to *change the properties* of incident light such that the light reflected by this layer has signaling properties in accordance with the claimed invention. Hence Clark does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention and cannot anticipate the instant claims under 35 USC 102. Withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 3,670,438 (Carroll et al.)

Carroll discloses a plastic sign plate emboss formed of thin sheet plastic and having raised luminescent lettering. The plastic sign plate has a permanent magnetic strip fixed to its backside for temporary attachment to an automobile.

Carroll does not teach a flexible *laminate* having a light-active second layer, which acts *without external energizing* to *change the properties* of incident light such that the light reflected by this layer has signaling properties. Hence Carroll does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention and cannot anticipate the instant claims under 35 USC 102. Withdrawal of

the instant rejection is requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,398,437 (Bump Jr. et al.).

Bump discloses a foldable banner having pockets in which magnets may be embedded for adherence to the body of a car. The banner may contain symbols made of reflective material.

Bump is not directed to a laminate, thus Bump cannot anticipate the flexible laminate of the claimed invention. Moreover, Bump does not teach a light-active second layer, which acts without external energizing to *change the properties* of incident light such that the light reflected by this layer has signaling properties. Withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 4,663,874 (Sano) in view of the cumulative teachings of Clark, Carroll et al, Bump Jr. et al. and USP 5,226,792 (Darago).

Sano discloses a magnetically attachable sign, which has means to allow enclosed air or water to be released from between the sign and the body to which it is attached. The sign carries an advertisement or sticker. Sano does not teach or suggest a laminate having a light-active second layer, which acts without external energizing to *change the properties* of incident light such that the light reflected by this layer has signaling properties.

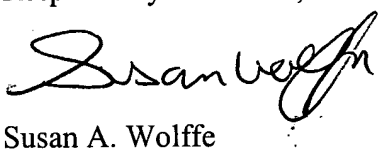
Clark, Carroll and Bump are described above and do not remedy the defects of Sano. None teach or suggest a light-active second layer, which acts without external energizing to *change the properties* of incident light such that the light reflected by this layer has signaling properties. Darago discloses a sign, which is attached to a window of the car. The bottom of the sign passenger may contain magnets sewn into the sign. Darago does not teach or suggest a flexible laminate in accordance with the claimed invention. Darago does not remedy the defects of Sano.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the instant rejections and objections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



Date:

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) A f~~F~~lexible laminate, comprising:

a flexible carrier first layer ~~serving as carrier layer~~;

a light-active second layer situated on an outer surface of the laminate; and

a flexible permanent magnetic ~~third~~ layer for releasable magnetic attachment of the laminate to a ferromagnetic surface; wherein the flexible permanent magnetic layer and the carrier layer are the same layer or the flexible permanent magnetic layer is a third flexible layer attached to the carrier layer;

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the light-active second layer acts without external energizing to change the properties of incident light such that the light reflected by this layer has signaling properties.

2. (Amended) ~~Laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first layer is also the third layer~~The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier layer and the permanent magnetic layer are the same layer.

3. (Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second layer is arranged locally in distributed zones.

4. (Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first layer comprises a textile fabric or non-woven material.

5. (Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layers are mutually adhered by respective glue layers.

6. (Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second layer is ~~(~~photo~~)~~ luminescent.

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS MADE

7. (Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second layer is ~~optionally~~ diffusely light-reflecting.

8. (Twice Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second layer has at least one ~~chosen~~ color, ~~for instance a warning color,~~ or a pattern of contrasting colors ~~or the like~~.

9. (Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the laminate comprises an edge or end zone without permanent magnetization.

10. (Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the magnetization of the flexible permanent magnetic ~~third~~ layer has an anisotropic character.

11. (Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein at least one~~ an aerodynamic edge zone ~~displays an aerodynamically acting form~~ tapering toward ~~its free edge~~the end of the laminate.

12. (Twice Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the laminate is ~~modeled to a desired shape, for instance~~ an elongate strip, the ~~general~~ shape of a road sign, or a warning triangle ~~or the like~~.

13. (Amended) The l~~L~~aminate as claimed in claim 12, wherein one end of the laminate ~~has a form such that at least one end~~ can be clampingly secured between a door or a window of a vehicle ~~and is optionally provided~~ with or without a widened portion.

14. (Twice Amended) Method of manufacturing a laminate, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

a) providing a first flexible carrier layer, a second light-active layer and a third flexible magnetic layer;

b) permanently connecting ~~these layers to each other~~ the second light-active layer to one side of the first layer and the third magnetic layer to the other side of the first layer.

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS MADE

15. (Amended) The m~~M~~ethod as claimed in claim 14, comprising the step of:

~~c)~~ ——performing step (b) by stitching, welding, glueing with a pressure-sensitive glue, or glueing with a thermally-activated glue or hot melt~~, or the like~~.

16. (Twice Amended) The m~~M~~ethod as claimed in claim 15, comprising the step of:

~~d)~~ ——performing step (~~c~~b) ~~by~~ using a thermally-activated glue ~~layer~~ and performing step (a) by providing a magnetizable ~~and not, at least not substantially, magnetized~~ layer, placing a ~~carrying the~~ pre-laminate comprising ~~formed by~~ the layers ~~placed onto one another~~ through a heating device ~~so as~~ to activate the glue layer, ~~carrying the heated pre-laminate~~ through ~~the pinch of~~ pressure rollers, and magnetizing the magnetizable layer ~~in the heated state of the pre-laminate~~.

17. (Amended) The m~~M~~ethod as claimed in claim 14, further comprising ~~the step of:~~

~~c) manufacturing the laminate by~~ co-extruding at least two layers.

18. (Amended) Method of manufacturing a laminate, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a flexible permanent magnetic first layer serving as carrier layer and for releasable magnetic attachment of the laminate to a ferromagnetic surface and a flexible second light-active layer;

b) permanently connecting the second light-active layer to one side of the first layer and the third magnetic layer to the other side of the first layer~~The method of claim 14, wherein the first and third layers are formed from a single layer having magnetic material incorporated therein~~.